

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 14-19, and 21-28 are currently pending in this application; Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 15, 22, and 24 are amended; Claims 25-28 are added, and Claims 6, 7, 13, and 20 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 is found, for example, in Figs. 19-21B, in the specification at page 56, line 10 to page 58, line 14, and in original Claim 14. Support for the amendments to Claims 8 and 22 is found, for example, in original Claim 20. Support for new Claims 25-28 is found, for example, in Fig. 22 and in the specification at page 58, line 15 to page 59, line 14. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 12 was objected to; Claims 1-5, 9-12, 15-19, 21, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,496) in view of Callele et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,343,516, herein Callele), and further in view of Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,495,979, herein Park); Claims 8 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Callele, in view of Park, and further in view of Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,719); and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Park, and further in view of Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,407,826, herein Hashimoto).

With respect to the objection of Claim 12, Claim 12 is amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection of Claim 12 is overcome.

In a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, in a communication sequence that occurs when the power supplied portion selection signal is sent from the data communication device to the image forming device concerned, an internal parameter setting

request signal containing power-supplied portion selection information corresponding to the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned is transmitted from the data communication device to the image forming device concerned.

Turning now to the outstanding grounds of rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent Claim 1, 10, 15, and 25 overcome the outstanding grounds of rejection. Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 are amended to recite, *inter alia*,

wherein the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned, and to transmit the internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device concerned, so that the image forming device concerned simultaneously receives both the internal parameter request signal and the power-supplied portion selection signal.

Okazawa, Park, Callele, and Hashimoto do not describe or suggest these elements of independent Claims 1, 10, 15, and 25.

Applicants note that the outstanding Office Action acknowledges that the combination of Okazawa, Callele, and Park does not expressly disclose a power supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal.¹

Furthermore, the outstanding Office Action asserts that Park describes the selection of the power-saving mode using H.sync and V.sync signals.² On the contrary, Park describes a power-saving control of a computer display. The description in Park relates to the display power management system (DPMS) proposed as an international standard by the Video Electronics Standard Association (VESA). In the DPMS system described by Park, one of the normal mode, standby mode, the suspend mode, and the off mode of the display device is selected in accordance with the H.sync and V.sync signals output from an external computer and detected by the display device.

¹ Office Action, page 17.

² Office Action, page 2.

The H.sync and V.sync signals are the original sync signals needed for the display device to perform normal display indication. The H.sync and V.sync signals are not command signals which set the power saving mode of the display device. There is no description or suggestion in Park that “the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned, and to transmit the internal parameter request signal, containing the power supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device concerned, so that the image forming device concerned simultaneously receives both the internal parameter request signal and the power-supplied portion selection signal.”

The outstanding Office Action relies on Hashimoto to cure the deficiencies in Okazawa, Callele, and Park. However, Hashimoto does not cure the deficiencies in Okazawa, Callele, and Park for the following reasons.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Fig. 15 of Hashimoto in rejecting Claim 14, now incorporated into the independent claims. However, Fig. 15 merely shows the second byte of the two-byte sleep mode designation command, which does not describe or suggest that the power-supplied portion selection signal is contained in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned.

Hashimoto does not describe or suggest a device provided to acquire the internal parameter of a specific unit of the image forming device or to perform reading or updating of the internal parameters of the image forming device for the purpose of remote management of the image forming device. Hashimoto does not describe or suggest a communication sequence when the power-supplied portion selection signal is sent from the data communication device to the image forming device. According to Hashimoto, the sleep control related command is solely transmitted.³

³ Hashimoto, Fig. 7, for example.

Thus, Hashimoto does not describe or suggest "the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned, and to transmit the internal parameter request signal, containing the power supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device concerned, so that the image forming device concerned simultaneously receives both the internal parameter request signal and the power-supplied portion selection signal."

In view of the above noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 (and dependent claims 2-5, 8, 11, 12, 16-19, 22, and 25-28) patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Callele, Park, and Hashimoto, alone or in combination.

Consequently, in view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection is traversed and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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